



## PRESS RELEASE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2023

**Press Contact:**

Hannah Kurowski, [hannah.kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hannah.kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov)

### **Democrats Strengthens Workers’ Compensation**

*House Bill 3471 balances the scales of power between employers and their employees seeking work after receiving workers compensation benefits.*

**SALEM, Ore.** - Today, the House passed House Bill 3471, legislation that empowers workers and gives them greater ability to keep their jobs and get back to work after getting hurt on the job.

When a worker gets hurt at work they can file a claim under the workers’ compensation program designed to provide workers with the treatment and time off they need to heal and return. Unfortunately, some workers end up in a settlement agreement where they are asked to quit their job as a condition of the settlement and agree to never work at the company again.

“This legislation ensures that an employer cannot unilaterally decide on a settlement that makes it harder for an employee to find work,” **said Representative Tom Andersen** (D- South Salem), **chief sponsor of the bill and a lawyer**. “I’ve practiced workers compensation law for two decades. This legislation is important because it gives employers and employees equal footing in cases where there is an opportunity to settle.”

An agreement to not rehire disproportionately affects those in more rural areas and those in industries where there are fewer local employers in the same industry (e.g. health care, grocery, education, etc.).

The bill passed 33-21 in the House and now heads to the Governor’s desk.

###